GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3446
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2016
Gunpowder Explosion in Ordnance Factories
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of explosion of gunpowder at ordnance factory in Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the loss of property and lives reported therein; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) & (b): An accident / explosion took place in the Explosive Disposal Ground of Ordnance Factory Khamaria (OFK), Jabalpur on 14.10.2015 at about 1015 hrs during burning of recovered Torpex − 4A (combination of RDX, TNT, Aluminium Powder, Paraffin Wax and Hexolite). No Explosive Destructive Ground (EDG) working employee was injured during accident. The extent of loss / damage to the Government property has been estimated by OFK as Rs.12,600.00 (approx.)

(c) The remedial / corrective measures implemented / being implemented in this regard are:

(i) Proper Traverse and Concrete Blast wall to be constructed.
(ii) Only one type of explosive to be burnt at a time.
(iii) Burning platform to be maintained properly.
(iv) General Safety Document (GSD) to be followed strictly.
(v) Only GSD authorized quantity to be burnt at any time.
(vi) All types of combustible materials to be removed from the EDG area and the same should not be stored.

(vii) All EDG employees involved to be trained properly and they must be conversant with the GSD and nature of the explosive before commencing the work.

(viii) Facilities to be created for burning of any type of waste explosives on platforms having the proper traverse and concrete blast walls to protect surrounding areas from the blast / explosions.

(ix) Ensure buildings used for burning of fuzes and detonators in pits also to be traversed and protection from blast walls.

(x) If the waste explosives are not as per the requirement of GSD, the same to be sent back to concerned sections for rectification.

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